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Robert the Bruce and the Spider

Long, long ago in Scotland, there lived a man called Robert the Bruce. The people of Scotland wanted him to be their king. But the King of England wanted to be the king of both Scotland and England, so he sent his army to Scotland.

Robert the Bruce was the leader of the Scottish army. He led the fight against the army of England. But the English army was much bigger than the Scottish army. Many Scottish soldiers were killed.



(the black part is Scotland)

Six times the Scottish army fought against the English army, and six times the English won. Robert became very sad. Many of his friends had been killed. He wanted to give up and run away to another country.

Draw a picture of Robert the Bruce:

One day, Robert was sitting in a cave feeling cold, hungry, and sad. He saw a spider in a corner of the cave. The spider was trying to build a web. It made a long thread and tried to swing across to the other side, but it could not reach. So it tried again. And again. And again. And again. Six times the spider tried to reach the other wall of the cave, and six times it failed.

Robert was really interested to see what would happen. He watched the spider make a new thread. This time, the spider swung over and reached the other wall and began to spin a web. "Well done, little spider!" said Robert. "You didn't give up, and I won't give up either."



So, the Scottish army fought against the big English army again, and again, and again, until they had chased the English army back to England. Then, Robert the Bruce became the King of Scotland.

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This is a map of England and Scotland. Draw the border between England and Scotland.

Summarize this story in one or two sentences:

Answer the following questions:

1. Have you ever felt like giving up? When? Did you give up?

2. Why didn't Robert the Bruce give up?
